



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

CIVIL RIGHTS HEROES HONORED DURING 6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS WALK OF FAME *Activists' Footsteps Enshrined at King Historic Site During Trumpet Awards Weekend*

Atlanta, GA (January 23, 2009). Footsteps of thirteen new revered civil rights icons will be added to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame. This induction ceremony is scheduled for **Saturday, January 24, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, located at 450 Auburn Avenue (Atlanta, GA).** The program preceding the induction ceremony will be held at **Ebenezer Baptist Church.** The Ceremonial Host for this year's occasion is **Frank Ski** with WVEE FM (V103) Radio. The program and unveiling of the footsteps are free and open to the public.

The 2009 honorees in this distinguished group include **the Reverend Dr. C.M. Alexander; Danny J. Bakewell, Sr.; Dr. Erieka Bennett; Roberto Goizueta; Cathy Hughes; Earvin "Magic" Johnson; The Links, Incorporated; the Honorable Sam Massell; the Honorable Ernest N. Morial; Father Michael L. Pfleger; the Reverend Al Sharpton, Congressman William L. Clay, Sr. and the Reverend C. T. Vivian**

The International Civil Rights Walk of Fame was created in 2004 to give recognition to the foot soldiers of justice who sacrificed and struggled to make equality a reality for all. The Walk resembles a parade of 2' x 2' granite squares imported from Africa and embedded into the Visitor Center promenade at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. The actual shoes of each honoree, used to create the footprint impressions on the granite markers bearing their respective names, will also be on display during the induction ceremony. This extraordinary display has become one of the most visited tourist attractions in the city of Atlanta and has enriched the heritage of the civil rights movement.

The International Civil Rights Walk of Fame, now in its sixth year, is sponsored by the Trumpet Awards Foundation, Inc., and was created and designed by **Xernona Clayton**, founder and executive producer of the renowned Trumpet Awards, which will be held in Atlanta this week. Ms. Clayton states, "This is a permanent testimony to those who have dedicated themselves to human progress."

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“Housed at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame stands as a sterling reminder of the human spirit that drives the struggle for civil rights,” said **Judy Forte**, superintendent, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. “We salute the Trumpet Awards Foundation for selecting an outstanding and deserving slate of honorees.”

Footprints from previous years include: **Dr. Maya Angelou; Senator Edward W. Brooke; Tyrone L. Brooks, Sr.; Sammy Davis, Jr.; Jesse Hill, Jr.; Dr. Benjamin Hooks; Attorney Clarence B. Jones; Tom Joyner; The Right Honorable Prime Minister Michael Manley; Herman Russell, Sr.; and Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker** were installed in 2008.

Lerone Bennett, Jr.; Tony Bennett; Marian Wright Edelman; Mayor Shirley Franklin; Attorney Frankie Freeman; Joe Louis; Dr. Otis Moss, Jr.; Sir Lynden Pindling; Sir Sidney Poitier; Dr. Otis W. Smith; Congresswoman Maxine Waters; The Honorable L. Douglas Wilder; and Jean Childs Young who were the 2007 assemblage of inductees.

Reverend Joseph E. Boone; Reverend William Holmes Borders; Xernona Clayton; President William Clinton; Lena Horne; John E. Jacob; Reverend James Orange; The Honorable Bernard Parks; Archbishop Desmond Tutu; and Stevie Wonder inducted in 2006.

Henry Aaron, Ted Turner, Harry Belafonte, Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Dick Gregory, Mayor Maynard H. Jackson, Jr., Ralph E. McGill, Reverend Fred L. Shuttlesworth, Judge Elbert P. Tuttle, Sr., Nancy Wilson, and Reverend Addie L. Wyatt inducted in 2005.

Juanita J. Abernathy; Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, Sr.; Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr.; Julian Bond; President Jimmy Carter; Medgar Evers; Dorothy Height; Reverend Jesse L. Jackson, Sr.; Judge Frank M. Johnson; President Lyndon Baines Johnson; Congressman John Lewis; Evelyn G. Lowery; Reverend Joseph E. Lowery; Justice Thurgood Marshall; Rosa Parks; Reverend Hosea Williams; and Ambassador Andrew Young were placed at the site in 2004.

The roll of honorees is growing year by year and others will be added to the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame.

“We will continue building upon this commemorative memorial to the civil rights struggle that depicts the tireless efforts and passionate concern of these determined individuals whose footsteps appear in this Walk of Fame,” said Ms. Clayton.